WHO ARE WE?
Sierra Nevada Journeys is built on a simple premise: Science education is a necessity, and nature’s classroom is a great place to teach it. Our mission is to deliver innovative outdoor, science-based education programs for youth to develop critical thinking skills and to inspire natural resource stewardship. To achieve this mission, we offer a range of programming to students in northern Nevada and California:

- Our credentialed teachers in Classrooms Unleashed Reno and Sacramento create and deliver innovative, engaging curriculum for 1st-6th graders, teach in the classroom, and lead students in field study activities.
- Our Residential Outdoor Science Instructors (ROSIs) host students, teachers, and families at our outdoor school located at Grizzly Creek Ranch, near Portola, CA.
- Our Summer Counselors run an epic summer camp for 8-17 year olds.
- We train teachers on how to bring engaging STEM lessons to their classrooms as well as how to utilize the outdoor classroom.
- Through our Family STEM Nights in Reno and Sacramento, we involve families in hands-on science and engineering activities to reinforce classroom concepts.

Sierra Nevada Journeys believe that outdoor science education is not just a luxury but a necessity. More than 50% of the students we serve are from low-income families, and hiring a diverse and capable staff enables us to better serve the needs of diverse students across our region.

WHO ARE YOU?
Sierra Nevada Journeys knows that it will take a team made up of a variety of perspectives to train the next generation of leaders and environmental stewards. We’re committed to building that team and nurturing an inclusive organizational culture to strengthen it. Though we come from all sorts of places, what bonds the Sierra Nevada Journeys staff is a deep commitment to our participants and the professionalism we use to fulfill our mission.

Sierra Nevada Journeys is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Recruitment, placement, and promotions are conducted without regard to an individual’s race, color, religion, sex, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, sexual orientation, protected veteran or disabled status, or any other classification protected by Federal, State, and local laws and ordinances.

Sierra Nevada Journeys is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Residential Outdoor Science Instructor  
Salary $75 to $80 per/day DOE (Room & Board provided, additional pay for valuable certs)  
Full Time: Seasonal Position, February - November 2020  
Sierra Nevada Journeys’ Grizzly Creek Ranch Campus, Portola, California

WHERE WE OPERATE  
We have three locations: our headquarters in Reno, NV our science campus in Portola, CA, and an office in Sacramento, CA. We serve students along the I-80 corridor from Sacramento, CA to Fallon, NV, with the majority of students clustered around our three locations. This position is based out of the Portola, CA location.

ABOUT GRIZZLY CREEK RANCH AND PORTOLA  
The Residential Outdoor Science Instructor works at our Grizzly Creek Ranch Campus in Portola, California. The campus is situated among 1,500 acres of pristine Yellow Pine forest. Built in 2003, Grizzly Creek Ranch offers excellent program resources, including a challenge course, hiking trails and pond. The campus is within convenient travel distance to Lake Tahoe, Reno, Reno/Tahoe Airport and Plumas National Forest. It is also within 3 hours of Sacramento and 4 hours of the San Francisco area. Instructors live in houses rented through Sierra Nevada Journeys in downtown Portola, CA – the nearest town with a population of about 2,000. The town has a grocery store, two gas stations, a couple restaurants and a ton of outdoor recreation activities.

JOB DESCRIPTION  
This is a seasonal position with varying roles and responsibilities. During the fall and spring seasons, Instructors’ primary responsibility is delivering residential, one-to-five-day outdoor science educational programs primarily serving 5th and 6th grades from regional elementary and middle schools. All of our lessons are hands-on science and collaborative problem solving-based with a focus on critical thinking, exploration, and environmental stewardship. Instructors are responsible for leading and educating a group of 12–15 students throughout their program, including facilitating large group activities, leading meals, and working evening programs. All lessons are written according to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and we train our staff using University of California at Berkeley’s BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning & Expertise Sharing) teaching techniques and pedagogy.

During the summer season, Sierra Nevada Journeys delivers both residential summer camp programs and community group programs including camps for people with disabilities and leadership development. During our traditional, week-long summer camp, Instructors facilitate activities such as the challenge course, swimming, kayaking, off-site trips, and ten leadership programs. Instructors may find themselves in a summer camp leadership position such as Head Lifeguard, Camp Helper, Staff Mentor, or Challenge Course Assistant, if they possess the skills and required certifications. For community groups, Instructors will use Sierra Nevada Journeys’ challenge course to facilitate leadership experiences and develop collaborative problem solving skills. Instructors also assist organizations that serve people with disabilities by adapting traditional camp activities to provide an enriching experience for their campers. Many of our community groups also bring participants to campus on the weekends in the fall and spring seasons; additionally, Instructors work with these groups to meet their program goals.

Instructors are directly responsible for ensuring that attending schools’ and campers’ educational outcomes are met. Instructors are supervised by the School & Community Groups Manager. For more information about this position please visit www.sierranevadajourneys.org/rosifaqs

For more information about outdoor science school and community group programs, please visit:  
https://www.sierranevadajourneys.org/overnight-outdoor-learning/ and  
https://www.sierranevadajourneys.org/facility-rental/.

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AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY
• Facilitate high quality outdoor education and challenge course programs (day and evening)
• Safely facilitate the challenge course to achieve collaborative problem-solving goals
• Proficiency in all Sierra Nevada Journeys outdoor school curriculum and teaching methods
• Attend all staff trainings delivered by the Program Management team
• Deliver, organize, and grade student assessments and related paperwork
• Effectively deliver programs while working with chaperones, teachers, community group staff members, and other instructors as needed
• Lead meals and engage students before meals
• Work on assigned projects, including but not limited to: creating necessary paper materials for schools, campus improvement projects, revamping curriculum, etc.
• Act as overnight on call staff as needed – staying overnight and helping groups with needs
• Clean and inventory program supplies, and participate in debriefs after each program
• Other duties as assigned

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS
• Minimum 21 years old
• Leadership experience or experience working with kids
• Passion for working with students and making a difference through education
• Ability to work irregular hours and days or nights in order to meet group needs
• Ability to take initiative, work independently, and maintain a positive attitude
• Ability to live and work positively with other staff members
• Willingness to be 30-feet off the ground on challenge course high elements
• Ability to pass background check
• Ability to hike over varying terrain, sometimes more than 2 miles
• Current CPR and First Aid certification, or willingness to obtain certification before start date
• Willingness to obtain lifeguard certification

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS
• Bachelor’s degree in related field
• Experience in science instruction – either in a formal outdoor setting or in a classroom setting

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS
• Competitive Salary (depends on experience)
  o Employees will earn $1/day extra for each certification:
    ▪ WFA/WFR
    ▪ Waterfront Lifeguard/Pool Lifeguard
    ▪ Teaching Certification
• Shared housing and most meals are provided
• Home base for living, working, exploring, and recreating in the beautiful Sierra Valley
• Employment with an innovative company focused on improving outdoor education delivery
• Pro Deals (discounts) for many outdoor gear companies

HOW TO APPLY
Please visit our website to apply for the ROSI position. You will be asked to upload your resume and cover letter within the online application.

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